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Department of State

A15 INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06385 231314Z 8887 ARA593

ACTION INM-06

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00 IO-15
NSC-01 ARA-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PRES-09
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UNCLAS LA PAZ 6385

STATE FOR INM AND ARA, DEA FOR OCI

E O 12356: NA
TAGS: SNAR, BL
SUBJ: PRESIDENT SILES DECLARED A FIGHT "TO THE DEATH" ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

1. LA PAZ DAILY "HOY" CARRIED AN ARTICLE OCTOBER 21 REPORTING AN UNDATED INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO BY THE NEWS SERVICE ANSA IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE DECLARED A "FIGHT TO THE DEATH" ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEFENDING THE LICIT PRODUCTION AND USE OF COCA.

2. THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONTINUED: "WE HAVE THE FIRM INTENTION TO ERADICATE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING -- IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR -- FOR WHICH WE ARE GOING TO UTILIZE ALL THE POWER OF THE BOLIVIAN NATION," ADDING THAT HE INTENDS TO COORDINATE ACTIONS WITH COLOMBIA AND PERU. "NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING DEEPLY AFFECTS THE NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH AND IS ALSO EXPANDING TO THE DEMOCRATIC EUROPEAN COMMUNITY," HE SAID BUT ADDED THAT "WE SHALL SOLVE OUR COMMON PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WE SHALL DEFEND THE CULTIVATION OF COCA LEAF FOR ITS TRADITIONAL USE. IN THIS DETERMINATION TO ERADICATE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, NOT ONLY WILL THE POLICE FORCE, THE GUARDIA CIVIL, AS WELL AS THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATE, BUT ALSO POLITICAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRINCIPALLY THE FARMERS, SINCE THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS THE WHOLE NATION," HE SAID. " WE KNOW IT IS GOING TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT TASK; WE KNOW IT IS GOING TO COST MANY LIVES. BUT WE MUST DO IT," THE PRESIDENT STATED. HE WENT ON TO SAY, "THAT IS WHY WE WILL PROPOSE ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AFFECTED IN THIS GREAT EFFORT OF THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE." TO REITERATE HIS DECISION TO INITIATE A "FIGHT TO THE DEATH" AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "THIS IS A NEW ERA, THAT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT BY A GOVERNMENT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FOR ITS COMPOSITION OF PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY THAT WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE TO ANY SEDUCTION OR BLACKMAIL BY THE TRAFFICKERS. SILES RECOGNIZED THAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CAN BE A FACTOR OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY. "WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR, OBJECTIVE PROOF IN THE 1980 COUP. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT ITS PROTAGONISTS, IN GREAT PROPORTION, WERE TRAFFICKERS THAT HAD INFILTRATED THE HIGHEST CIRCLES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ALSO AT IMPORTANT LEVELS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION." NEVERTHELESS, SILES ESTABLISHED A DEADLINE "TILL THE END OF THE YEAR" TO ERADICATE FROM THE COUNTRY THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF COCAINE.

3. DRAFTED BY RUDOLPH P. PENS. CORR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE/A/CDC/MR
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